



# City of Salinas

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR • 200 Lincoln Avenue • Salinas, California 93901 • (831) 758-7201 • Fax (831) 758-7368

May 8, 2001

The Honorable Robert O'Farrell  
Presiding Judge  
Monterey County  
240 Church Street  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Judge O'Farrell:

My staff and I have reviewed the Grand Jury 2000 report on domestic violence and have the following comments. First, let me begin by commending the Grand Jury for looking into the issue of domestic violence and particularly local law enforcement's approach to this serious problem. As you well know, domestic violence is detrimental to the health and safety of individuals, families, and the community in general. In response to the Grand Jury's findings, it was gratifying to read that significant progress has been made since the 1996 Grand Jury report on this topic was made available.

## **Response to findings 1 through 5, and 7:**

1. The City of Salinas agrees with the finding.
2. The City partially agrees with the finding. The police department has informed me that some people may indeed be too intimidated to report domestic violence or seek information at the police department, but those individuals will often anonymously call the department and obtain information about ways they can seek help.
3. The City partially agrees with this finding. The front office at the Salinas Police Department is staffed 24 hours a day and domestic violence pamphlets are located at the front counter, very accessible to the public. Even if the front door is locked late at night, people are allowed into the department via an intercom system. For that reason, the City does not see a need to install a receptacle outside the station at this time.
4. The City agrees with the finding.
5. The City agrees with the finding.
7. The City agrees with the finding.

### **Response to recommendations 1 through 5, and 7:**

1. The recommendation has been implemented, although the review process will not be completed until June 30. The Salinas Police Department is committed to routinely reviewing its policies and procedures on domestic violence to ensure the availability and easy access to domestic violence information for the public. I would also like to mention the police department does routinely review new information on this topic. For example, the Police Department's Personnel and Training Unit often receives training information that is routinely passed on to other members of the department. Some of this training information relates to domestic violence.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the near future. The City of Salinas supports the concept of making domestic violence information available at other public locations in our community. I have asked Chief Daniel Ortega to have members of our Police/Community Services Unit to take the lead on this recommendation by periodically contacting various public agencies that may be in support of displaying domestic violence brochures. Also, the police department will continue to use their weekly "Police Line" television show as a means to educate the community on domestic violence. In addition to the above, I have directed City Staff to explore the option of displaying domestic violence information at city facilities that are frequented by the public (Libraries, City Hall, Community Center, etc.). A decision on this will be made by June 30.
3. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted at this time. As previously mentioned, the front office at the police department is staffed around the clock. It is the police department's belief that if someone is too intimidated to enter the police department, that person would most likely not even show up at the front doors to retrieve information on this topic. There are a number of other ways the information can be passed on (mail, anonymous phone calls, referrals, etc.).
4. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but it will be implemented by June 30. Additionally, the police department currently has detectives that are responsible for the investigation of domestic violence cases. These officers serve as our in-house experts and are in an ideal position to oversee ongoing training regarding domestic violence. Nonetheless, one officer will be designated as the department's domestic violence coordinator to ensure that our efforts are truly focused.
5. This recommendation is already in place. As previously mentioned, our police department has been very aggressive in its efforts to work with children. In addition to having 10 full-time School Resource Officers stationed at every middle and high school in Salinas, we have very active Police Activities League and Police Explorer Programs. In each of these programs, especially the School

Resource Officer Program, our officers interact with children and educate them on a variety of topics, to include domestic violence. We will continue to improve our efforts in this important area.

7. The recommendation has been implemented. The police department has an adequate supply of the domestic violence brochures and the Police Administration Division will be responsible for ensuring that a master copy is kept on file.

Again, I would like to personally thank the Grand Jury for examining the difficult issue of domestic violence. On behalf of the City Council, Chief Ortega, and all of the hard working men and women at the Salinas Police Department, I pledge our support to work with anyone interested in reducing domestic violence in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna M. Caballero", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANNA M. CABALLERO  
Mayor

cc: City Council